

Message Text

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42

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00

DOTE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 ACDA-19

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O 221240Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 927

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10050

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PINS, PFOR, CASC

SUBJECT: ROME ICAO ASSEMBLY/DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE CONCLUDED

FROM AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF EVENTS FINAL DAY OF ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE.

2. AS REPORTED, CONFERENCE CONVENED IN MORNING SEPTEMBER 21 AND FAILED TO ADOPT ANY OF PROTOCOLS PROPOSED BY USSR AND GREECE EVEN THOUGH RULE 20 BIS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AND ONLY MAJORITY OF TWO-THIRDS DELEGATES VOTING REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION.

3. ASSEMBLY CONVENED IN AFTERNOON AND COMMENCED LENGTHY DEBATE OVER A RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA AND JAPAN AND ANOTHER RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY ZAIRE. LATTER CONTAINED PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH RECALLING ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 30, 1973 CON-
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DENMING ISRAEL.

4. DEBATE PROCEEDED THROUGH AFTERNOON WITH BREAK APPROXIMATELY 6:30 FOR BRIEF CONFERENCE SESSION FOR SIGNING OF FINAL ACT AND CONCLUDING SPEECHES AND FOR AUSTRALIA TO ATTEMPT REDRAFT OF RESOLUTION. ASSEMBLY RECONVENED AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 AND PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED, SINCE RESOLUTION STILL BEING REDRAFTED, DELEGATES SHOULD NOW MAKE ANY CONCLUDING REMARKS THEY WISHED.

5. USDEL CONTACTS BEFORE AND DURING SESSION (INCLUDING THOSE WITH BELGIAN DEL) INDICATED SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO FIUMICINO INCIDENT WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED WITH SERIOUS LIKELIHOOD IT COULD REVIVE ARAB-ISRAELI DEBATE WITH MOST UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES SINCE CONTENTIONS DRAFT RESOLUTION STILL BEFORE ASSEMBLY. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, OBVIOUSLY SENSING THIS SITUATION, MADE RESTRAINED STATEMENT WHICH OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THIS INCIDENT. IN LIGHT FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, SPECIFIC REFERENCES WERE DELETED FROM STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE WHICH FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT.

IN MY OPENING STATEMENT I NOTED THAT WE HERE WERE FACED WITH A TASK OF MONUMENTAL COMPLEXITY, BUT EQUALLY OF MONUMENTAL IMPORTANCE. IN RETROSPECT ONE MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE COMPLEXITY HAS OVERSHADOWED THE IMPORTANCE. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE UPON ANY OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT BEFORE US, DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF CIVIL AVIATION. THE GREAT EFFORTS WHICH HAVE GONE INTO THESE PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY THE EFFORTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AUTHORS AND SPONSORS, ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED. IT IS SAD INDEED THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND A SUFFICIENT AREA OF AGREEMENT TO ADOPT ANY OF THEM.

IN PARTICULAR, MR. PRESIDENT, MY DELEGATION STRONGLY SUPPORTED AN INDEPENDENT CONVENTION WHICH WOULD HAVE ENABLED INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY AND MORAL PRESSURE TO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR UPON STATES ACTING CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS. WE REGRET THAT THIS PROPOSAL NEVER REACHED THE STAGE OF CONSIDERATION IN PLENARY SESSION.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE INDEPENDENT CONVENTION CONCEPT AND THE
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OTHER CONCEPTS FOR IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL MEASURES WERE BORN DURING A TIME OF GREAT VIOLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. UNHAPPILY THIS VIOLENCE HAS NOT NOTICEABLY DIMINISHED, AND THUS THE LARGELY NEGATIVE RESULTS OF OUR MEETING HERE ARE EVEN MORE REGRETTABLE.

ALTHOUGH MY DELEGATION'S GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF OUR WORK HERE IS NOT ENCOURAGING, I WISH TO OBSERVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL

CONCERN WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THESE MEETINGS MAY ULTIMATELY HAVE SECONDARY CONSEQUENCES WHICH ARE BENEFICIAL. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE HEARD NUMEROUS DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES AFFIRM THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAVE RATIFIED OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF RATIFYING THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS. IF THIS IN FACT OCCURS RAPIDLY AND ON A BROAD SCALE, THAN WE MIGHT ONE DAY BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SECONDARY CONSEQUENCES OF THIS CONFERENCE AND ASSEMBLY WERE GREATLY BENEFICIAL.

WHEN WE RETURN FROM ROME ONE MESSAGE IS CLEAR IN THE VIEW OF MY DELEGATION: STATES MUST EXPEND EVEN GREATER EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION AGAINST THREATS AND DANGERS FROM ANY QUARTER.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE EXISTING ICAO MACHINERY MUST PLAY A VIGOROUS AND ASSERTIVE ROLE IN ASSISTING IN THIS BATTLE TO ELIMINATE THREATS TO CIVIL AVIATION. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO, HIS STAFF, THE COUNCIL OF ICAO, AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES WORKING IN MONTREAL RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR ROLE IS NOW EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, THEY CANNOT SUCCEED ALONE. STATES WORKING INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY MUST ALSO TAKE UP THE TASK. ALTHOUGH WE COULD NOT AGREE HERE UPON A NEW TREATY TO ESTABLISH MACHINERY TO DO THE JOB, NO DELEGATION CAN DENY THE GRAVITY OF THE CONTINUING THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION.

MR. PRESIDENT AND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, MY DELEGATION RENEWS ITS PLEDGE TO TRY TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO THIS THREAT, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OTHERS HERE SHARING OUR GRAVE CONCERN WILL DO LIKEWISE.

THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT. END QUOTE

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6 IN PRESS CONFERENCE WITH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS, AT AMEMBASSY, WHICH COINCIDED WITH FOREGOING STATEMENT IN ASSEMBLY, USDEL HUFFMAN MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDED SENTENCE: "EVEN, AND MORE IRONICALLY, AS OUR MEETINGS HERE HAVE TAKEN PLACE, DRAMATIC NEW INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURED TO DEMONSTRATE AGAIN THE NEED FOR HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. " FOLLOWING STATEMENT, HUFFMAN SPECIFICALLY AFFIRMED THIS WAS REFERENCE TO FIUMICINO INCIDENT.

7. ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENCED AT 8:30. OBJECTIONALBE PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH HAD BEEN DELETED AT REQUEST OF U.S.; ARAB DELS REMAINED SILENT; ZAIRE WITHDREW BALANCE OF ITS RESOLUTIN CALLING FOR STUDY BY ICAO SECGEN; AND FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED WITH NO OPPOSITION (BUT SEVERAL ABSTENTIONS) AT 10 O'CLOCK:

QUOTE ASSEMBLY-20TH SESSION (EXTRAORDINARY)
(ROME, 28 AUGUST - 21 SEPTEMBER 1973)
DRAFT RESOLUTION
(PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA AND JAPAN)

THE ASSEMBLY,

MINDFUL THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
CAN GREATLY HELP TO CREATE AND PRESERVE FRIENDSHIP AND UNDER-
STANDING AMONG THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, YET ITS
ABUSE CAN BECOME A THREAT TO GENERAL SECURITY,

CONSCIOUS OF THE MANDATE BESTOWED ON THE ORGANIZATION TO INSURE
THE SAFE AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION,

MINDFUL OF THE RESOLUTION A17-1 ADOPTED AT ITS 17TH SESSION
(EXTRAORDINARY) CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST
INTERNATION CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT,

CONDEMNS ALL ACTS OF INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION AND ANY
FAILURE BY A CONTRACTING STATE TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO
RETURN AN AIRCRAFT WHICH IS BEING ILLEGALLY DETAINED OR TO
EXTRADITE OR SUBMIT TO PROSECUTING AUTHORITIES THE CASE
OF ANY PERSON ACCUSED OF AN ACT OF UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE
WITH CIVIL AVIATION;
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APPEALS TO ALL STATES WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BECOME PARTIES
TO THE TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS TO GIVE URGENT
CONSIDERATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SO DOING,

REAFFIRMS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
ORTANIZATION TO FACILITATE THE RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS WHICH
MAY ARISE BETWEEN CONTRACTING STATES IN RELATION TO MATTERS
AFFECTING THE SAFE AND ORDERLY OPERATION OF CIVIL AVIATION
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. END QUOTE

7. ASSEMBLY THEN ENDED AT 10:45 AFTER CONCLUDING SPEECHES.
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